10th August 1955]

Softwood plantations in Malabar

* 2066 Q.—SRI M. PALANIYANDI (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any match producers applied for State aid for bringing up softwood plantations in Malabar; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have granted their request?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. The Managing Director, United Timber and Cashew Products, Limited, Tellicherry, applied for subsidy from the State Government for raising softwood plantations in a private forest area near Kuttiadi.

" (*b*) The company was informed that the Government of India were not agreeable to pay subsidy to private parties for raising softwood since they had sanctioned a scheme for raising match-wood plantations departmentally in different States."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know the steps taken by the Government to increase the acreage and also the quality of the wood?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government are extending the plantations in Malabar and in certain other areas."

Government grants to Malabar District Board for medical purposes.

* 2067 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of grant given to the Malabar District Board for medical purposes during the financial year 1954–55;

(*b*) the basis on which it was arrived at;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that this amount is being given as Government contribution to only about six dispensaries and not for others; and

(*d*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Rs. 62,973–9–0.

" (*b*) The grant includes half-grant towards the cost of maintaining the medical institutions opened by the District Board, Malabar, after 9th March 1915, but before 17th April 1928, percentage contribution towards the pay and dearness allowance of Medical Officers employed in specified Local Fund Institutions which are expected to perform Government

work in the interest of the general administration and half-grant for the construction of medical buildings approved by Government and for equipment for medical institutions.

" (c) No, Sir.

" (d) Does not arise."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have received any representation from the President, Malabar District Board, in this connexion and also may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government will be pleased to contribute more money in view of the fact that the contributions already given are meagre and if it is not possible to do so, whether the Government will be pleased to take over all the Local Fund Dispensaries under their control? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The President, District Board, has requested that 50 per cent contribution should be given for all the 23 medical institutions and that matter is under the consideration of the Government."

Extension of cheris in Kallakurichi taluk

* 2068 Q.—SRI L. ANANDAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any petitions from any of the cheris in Kallakurichi taluk were received in 1954 by the Government for the extension of cheris to provide increased housing accommodation; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Village-sites have been selected for extension of the cheri at Vadakkanandal and further steps are being taken by the Collector. Proposals for provision of house-sites in Varanjaram cheri are also under consideration by the Collector."

Construction of a bridge over the Pennar river

* 2069 Q.—SRI A. MUTHUSWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any scheme pending with the Government to construct a bridge over the Pennar river connecting Tirukkoyilur and Arakandanallur in Tirukkoyilur taluk?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The answer is in the affirmative."

SRI A. MUTHUSWAMY :—" திருக்கோவிலூருக்கும் அரகண்டநல்லூருக்கும் மத்தியில் ஓடும் தென்பண்ணை நதியில் மாரி காலங்களில் ஏற்படும் வெள்ளப் பெருக்கத்தால் அதிகப்படியான ஜனங்களுக்கு உயிர் சேதம் ஏற்படுகின்றன. அங்கு பாலம் கட்ட வேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம்